

Brad Kendrick  
Accounting 2600-001  
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I developed a strong set of both moral and work ethics early on in life. As an older student going back to school for a second bachelor's degree, I have had many opportunities to both test and harden my ethics that most college students have not had. I am currently working in a rewarding career that I never pictured for myself. This is due in large part to the ethics I developed early in life. Growing up in a small town with my dad as a small business owner and my mom as a schoolteacher allowed the opportunities for me to not only learn the value of hard work but also the value of admitting my mistakes and accepting consequences.

Small town life provided many opportunities to learn hard work. As a child, one of my responsibilities was to take care of our animals: a few dozen chickens, several sheep, and a few turkeys. This would entail getting up early, gathering eggs, breaking the ice in the water, and making sure there was enough feed. This experience taught me that even though there are times I might not want to go out into the cold there are responsibilities that have to be taken care of no matter what excuse or justification I might have. Watching my dad go to work and run his business everyday reinforced the idea of personal responsibility. No matter the scenario, my dad had the responsibility to find a way forward.

Once I was old enough, I started school. It was here that I quickly learned that there was no way for me to get into trouble and not have my parents find out. My mom taught third grade at the same elementary school I attended. When a student would get into trouble, they would typically be sent to the principal's office. I on the other hand, would be sent to my mom. Not only did this provide an incentive to stay out of trouble it also taught me that I was not able to escape consequences. My mom heard about everything I did. I found it is easier and much less painful to admit when I was wrong and accept what was coming to me.

Growing up this way set me on the course that would lead me to where I am today. I went to college later in life and I found myself 30 years old and in my last year in college. Knowing I needed to make connections, I started working an internship that consisted of answering phone calls for no pay. I had a decent paying job before this and could have viewed this as beneath me but cleaning up after sheep and chickens taught me to do what needs to be done. They quickly realized I had potential and I soon found myself in charge of restructuring a 12 million dollar fee structure affecting a large population. A couple of days before presenting to the board I found a mistake in my calculations and realized my numbers were off by almost 300,000. Instead of trying to hide my mistake, I immediately went to my boss. Together we were able to make a few minor corrections and was able to present a solid plan to the board. Not long after that experience, I was offered a high-level position with the organization and have since enjoyed a rewarding career.